

9-22-05

Monday evening Sept. 19th a little after 8pm I called Casey Howard on her cell phone to talk about the days fishing offshore. Casey answered and informed me that she was with Scott (her husband) at the Umpqua River lighthouse over'look. I asked why they were there. She said the "Sydney Mae" was returning from a tuna trip and the bar was in horrible condition.

My wife Kathy and I left the house and drove up to the lighthouse. Scott & Casey said that just moments before we arrived they had heard a very loud crash that sounded like a boat had struck the end of the south jetty.

All of us were watching and then we could see a strobe light near the end of the south jetty. This strobe light was drifting to the south.

Pat Sullivan called Station Umpqua River on his VHF and asked how long it had been since they had contact with "Sydney Mae" The stations reply was 15min. Then I heard the station trying to contact the "Sydney Mae", no response. I believe it was at that time I called the station on my hand held VHF using my call name "Rivers End" and suggested they dispatch a boat right away. Some time later the FV "Fiskin" called "Rivers End" and asked if I could give him an idea on how far the strobe light was from his position. We could see his light. By that time I told him that from our position it appeared the light had moved approx. 2/3rds the distance from the end of the south jetty to his boat, but was well inside his depth. I believe the "Fiskin" was on anchor south of the bar and possibly @ whistle buoy depth. Later I heard the "Fiskin" report he couldn't move in closer.

Kathy and I stayed until 10:30pm and listened to the USCG conversations with the helicopter and both rescue boats.

[REDACTED]  
Dennis Sherwood  
River's End Guide Service & Ocean Charters

[REDACTED]  
Phone  
[REDACTED]